

CLAIMS:

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1. An isolated polypeptide capable of resuscitating dormant, moribund or latent bacterial cells, which polypeptide comprises: (i) a sequence of amino acid residues wherein the identities and relative positions of amino acid residues therein correspond to the residues indexed by asterisks in any one of the sequences set out in Figure 1A or Figure 1B(B), or (ii) a sequence which has at least 20% identity or homology with the sequence defined in (i).
 2. The polypeptide of claim 1 which is any one of the polypeptides represented in Figure 1A or Figure 1B, or a homologue, allelic form, species variant or mutein thereof.
 3. The polypeptide of claim 1 which is the *M. luteus* Rpf factor represented in Fig. 2A, or a homologue, allelic form, species variant or mutein thereof.
 4. The polypeptide of any one of the preceding claims which is recombinant.
 5. A pharmaceutical composition (e.g. a vaccine) comprising the polypeptide of any one of the preceding claims.
 6. The polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to 4 which is:
 - (a) for use in therapy (e.g. immunotherapy), diagnosis or prophylaxis; and/or
 - (b) in a pharmaceutical excipient, a unit dosage form or in a form suitable for local or systemic administration.
 7. An antibody (or antibody derivative) specific for the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to 4.
 8. The antibody of claim 7 which is:
 - (a) for use in therapy (e.g. immunotherapy), diagnosis or prophylaxis; and/or
 - (b) in a pharmaceutical excipient, a unit dosage form or in a form suitable for local or systemic administration.
 9. Isolated nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide defined in any one of claims 1 to 4.
 10. A vector (e.g. an expression vector) comprising the nucleic acid of claim 9.
 11. A host cell comprising the vector of claim 10.

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12. The nucleic acid of claim 9 or vector of claim 10 in a pharmaceutical excipient.
13. A diagnostic kit, culture medium or transport medium comprising the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to 4.
14. An *ex vivo* method of diagnosis, comprising the step of contacting a biological sample with the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to 4.
15. A live vaccine comprising an attenuated microbe, which microbe bears a mutation in a gene encoding (or regulating the expression of) the polypeptide defined in any one of claims 1 to 4.

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